

Work Task E12: Butler Lake

Partners:	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Contact:	Nathan Lenon, LC-8457
Purpose:	Butler Lake is a potential restoration project intended to determine whether effective restoration techniques can be developed to provide the conditions needed to support self-sustaining populations of LCR native fish. The techniques developed in this project will be widely applicable to other projects.
Conservation Measures:	CLRA1, BONY2, RASU2, LEBI1 and BLRA1
Long-term Goal(s):	Habitat creation, restoration research
Location:	Reach 5
FY2006 Estimate:	\$140,000 will fund Reclamation staff and an agreement, which will make minor site improvements (boat access) and continue the monitoring process.
FY2007 Estimate:	\$75,000 will fund Reclamation staff and an agreement to modify (treat) and monitor the response of the backwater to the disturbance.
FY2008 Estimate:	\$25,000 will fund Reclamation staff and an agreement to evaluate and monitor the backwater.
Project Description:	Butler Lake, approximately 60 acres in size, is seepage-driven, with no known surface connection to the Colorado, or any other body of water. The lack of freshwater flushing has caused the lake to become hypereutrophic (an advanced state of nutrient enrichment).

In its current condition, Butler Lake provides little benefit to fish or wildlife. This assessment will focus on improving the water quality in the lake. Data obtained will provide: (1) a better understanding of what drives the aquatic system from an aquatic ecology perspective, and (2) a baseline from which to measure the success of any potential restoration activities. A study plan is available.